

12. (Amended) An apparatus for carrying out the method of claim 2, which is a computer controlled apparatus including the following elements:

- i) a patch clamp amplifier;
- ii) a source of variable suction for a patch clamp pipette under the control of the patch clamp amplifier;
- iii) a holder for a capillary tube to be mounted vertically;
- iv) a holder for a patch clamp pipette to be mounted vertically in the same axis as the capillary tube in an inverted orientation with the tip pointing upwardly;
- v) a manipulator for controlling relative movement of the capillary tube and pipette along a common axis of movement under feedback control from the patch clamp amplifier and allowing for the tip of the pipette to enter a downwardly facing end of the capillary tube.

15. (Amended) A computer-program-controlled patch clamping process for carrying out the method of [any of claims 1 to 11] claim 1 or 2.

16. (Amended) A computer-program-controlled patch clamping process for controlling the apparatus of claim 12 or 13.

17. (Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying a computer program for controlling a computer to implement the method claim 1 or 2.

18. (Amended) A method for controlling a computer by means of a computer program for implementing the method of claim 1 or 2.

REMARKS

Claims 10-12 and 15-18 have been amended to eliminate improper multiple dependency and so they will be considered upon examination of this application.

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